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tradition that it belonged to a bird of the eagle kind which had become extinct, and to which they gave the name of 'Movie.'” (*Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, Nov. 12, 1839, p. 169.) I am now, of course, disposed to attach more weight to this tradition than when it rested on a fossil proved to belong to a bird which could not fly, and which was at least as large as an ostrich. We may suppose the great raptorial species which we now know to have co-existed with the *Dinornithes* to have survived, by reason of its greater powers of escape, some time after the extinction of its principal prey; and the tradition of the great bird “of the eagle kind” may be a consequence of the knowledge of the *Harpagornis* continuing down to later generations of Maories than those who hunted down the huge herbivorous flightless birds.—RICHARD OWEN, *in the Academy*.

### ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANOTHER LAKE VILLAGE. — “An interesting archæological discovery has recently been made on the shores of the Lake of Bienné. The Swiss Government has been for a long time endeavoring to drain a considerable tract of land between the two lakes of Morat and Bienné, but in order to do this effectually it has been found necessary to lower the level of the latter by cutting a canal from it to the lake of Neuchatel. At the beginning of the present year the sluices were opened, and the waters of the Lake of Bienné allowed to flow into that of Neuchatel. Up to the present time the level of the Bieler See has fallen upwards of three feet, and this fall has brought to light a number of stakes driven firmly into the bed of the lake. This fact becoming known, a number of Swiss archæologists visited the spot, and it was decided to remove the soil round these stakes to see whether any remains of a Lacustrine village, which they suspected had been raised upon them, could be traced. At a distance of between five and six feet from the present bed of the lake the workmen came upon a large number of objects of various kinds, which have been collected and are at present under the custody of Dr. Gross of Locrass. Among them are pieces of cord made from hēmp, vases, stags’ horns, stone hatchets, and utensils used apparently for cooking. The most precious specimen is, however, a hatchet made of néphrite (the name given to a peculiarly hard kind of stone from which the La-

custrines formed their cutting instruments). This hatchet is sixteen centimetres long by seven broad, and is by far the largest yet discovered in any part of Switzerland, no other collection having any measuring more than eight centimetres in length. A quantity of the bones found at the same time have been sent to Dr. Uhlmann, of Münchenbuchsee, for examination by him, and he finds that they belong to the following animals, viz:—stag, horse, ox, wild boar, pig, goat, beaver, dog, mouse, etc., together with a number of human bones. If the level of the lake continues to sink, it is hoped that further discoveries will be made, and the scientific world here is waiting the result of the engineering operations with keen interest.” — *The Standard*. — *Nature*.

### MICROSCOPY.

THE MICROSCOPE IN THE LECTURE ROOM.—Dr. N. J. C. Müller of Heidelberg sends a notice to the “*Botanische Zeitung*” of his experience in the use of the microscope in his botanical lectures, that deserves the attention of those who desire the help of the microscope in illustrating scientific lectures. The objections to the plan of bringing in a number of instruments under each of which a preparation has been placed, are many and serious. The most important is perhaps the difficulty which one unaccustomed to the use of the microscope has in understanding the new and strange appearances presented, and that while looking at the prominent objects in sight, such as air bubbles and foreign bodies of marked and strong outline, he misses altogether the real object which ought to have been seen. The experiment of using the ordinary microscope as a solar microscope and presenting the image of the object on a screen where it could be seen by the whole class at once, and their attention directed to the important points, was tried last summer, and with the most marked success. He used one of Hartnack’s first class instruments clamped in a horizontal position and received the image on a screen distant from five to eight metres making an image of two to three metres in diameter. An heliostat and one or two condensing lenses directed the light on the object. The microscope was so placed that the stage was somewhat this side of the focus of the collecting lens. When images were desired as free as possible from spherical aberration the ocular was removed and the image taken directly